

Clay County Health Department

70

Years of Public Health 1941-2011



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Original Logo- Circa 1960

Message from our Administrator

Often a platinum jubilee marks a 70th anniversary; 2011 marked 70 years of service by the Clay County Health Department (Clay CHD) to the residents and visitors of our county. Platinum signifies the qualities of public health in our county. Platinum is described as lustrous, malleable and ductile and is used as a catalyst in a variety of applications. A comparison between the work of the health department and the metal platinum for 2011 is fitting.

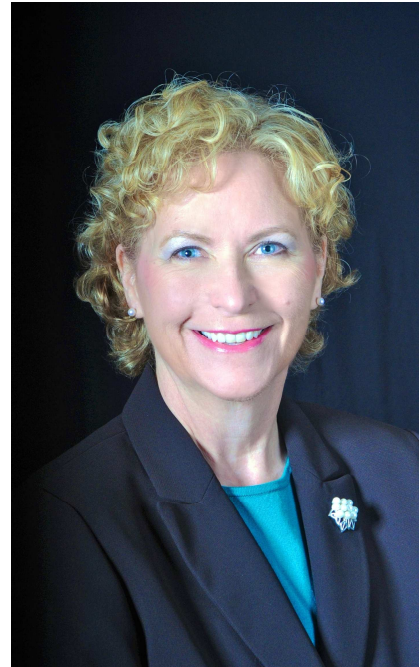
The lustrous nature of platinum compares to our bright, capable and hard working staff who work as a team to provide a variety of individual and community-based services. As an agency, we are malleable – we have the capacity for adaptive change. Our changing economic and political environment, along with the changing public health needs of our community require us to be ductile; in other words, we must be capable of being fashioned into a new form to meet the dynamic environment in which we operate. Finally, we serve as a catalyst for change – whether it is as individual change, community change, or systematic change – to continually work toward a healthier future for Clay County.

Please accept our platinum 2011 annual report as a document reflecting the work we do, along with our gratitude in allowing us to be of continued service to Clay County – our home.

Sincerely



Nancy J. Mills, MPA, CPHA
Administrator

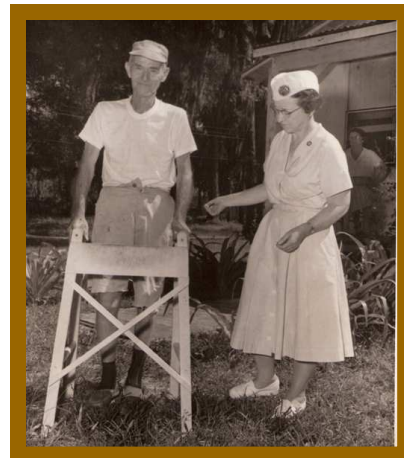


Why is Public Health Important?

In an opening statement of the 1954 Clay County Health Division annual report, Dr. A. Y. Covington, County Health Officer wrote, *“Individuals occasionally state that they do not need the services of the Health Department as they are financially able to protect their own families. To those I would ask the questions: Do they drink water or milk or do they ever eat out in food establishments? Do they visit public swimming pools? Do they have children attending school? Do they employ maids or cooks? Do they ever attend public gatherings, etc.? Your Health Department, by authority of the State of Florida, is a constant watch dog and through its continued surveillance and inspections eliminated a high percentage of potential dangers noted in the above situations.”*

Control of infectious diseases was the major reason for the establishment of public health services and remains a major focus today. Throughout history, as one communicable disease has been eradicated, another evolves to take its place. Each new threat has been matched by a public health response. Through the years, diseases such as yellow fever, malaria, and dengue fever were reduced through mosquito control programs and quarantines.

Syphilis and gonorrhea were once widespread, with syphilis infecting one of every six men tested in the 1940s and over 60,000 gonorrhea cases annually in the 1970s. Both have been reduced substantially, but thousands have contracted AIDS, Chlamydia and other sexually transmitted diseases. Public health is now battling new scourges such as penicillin-resistant gonorrhea and other infectious diseases that have mutated to become immune to most antibiotics, such as MRSA (an antibiotic-resistant form of Staph infection).



Each year brings new diseases, new chronic disease risks, and more natural disasters, like hurricanes and floods. Along with those, preparedness to meet the threat of accidental and intentional disasters has also become a core public health function.

Clay County's public health history starts long before 1941.

“Nasty, brutish and short”. That is how life was in Clay County before the development of public health. Poor sanitation, unregulated food processing, lack of control of mosquitoes, inadequate prenatal care, and other poor health conditions led to unnecessary illnesses and deaths.

A Clay County leader laid the foundation for public health in Florida. While the 1885 Constitution provided for a State Board of Health, the Board was not established until 1889 when a member of one of Clay County's founding families, Governor Francis Fleming called for a special session of the Legislature. He wanted the Board of Health established to address the yellow fever epidemic that plagued our area in 1887 and returned with a vengeance in 1888.



Florida's State Health Department was created in 1889, under the administration of the State Board of Health. The Board was empowered to investigate and prevent yellow fever, smallpox, and cholera and to impose coastal and city quarantines. The State Health Officer led the Board headquartered in Jacksonville.

The Board studied health problems, administered health services programs, disseminated health information, enforced rules concerning sanitation and communicable diseases. It could also impose coastal and city quarantines. It controlled the Bureau of Vital Statistics, the bacteriological laboratories, the veterinary department with a State Veterinarian, and tuberculosis sanitariums.

Clay County Health Department Formed in 1941

Clay CHD was officially organized on April 15, 1941 as the Clay/Bradford Public Health Unit. Prior to that time, Katherine Canova, RN, a Public Health Nurse, provided services to Clay County citizens and schools. The first Health Department was located in two rented rooms over a bank in downtown Green Cove Springs. The staff consisted of one nurse, one sanitarian, one clerk, a custodian, a clinic aide and a part-time health



officer. Tuberculosis was a major concern during the 1930's and 40's and screenings for the disease were done throughout the county from a mobile van.

In 1943, the Health Department re-organized into the Clay/ Bradford/ Union County Public Health Unit. Dr. I. R. Abrams served as Health Officer. The population of the County

at that time was approximately 10,000. In 1946, Dr. A.Y. Covington became Health Officer. The county's population swelled with the berthing of Navy ships at the Green Cove Springs base and a case of smallpox was reported. In 1949, the Health Department trained six members of the Keystone Heights PTA to use audiometers and assist the Health Department in screening schoolchildren.

1950s

In 1950, the Clay CHD and staff of the U.S. Naval base in Green Cove Springs provided food handler schools for people who worked in food establishments and school lunchrooms. In 1954, hookworm was prevalent in the schools and there were five cases of polio in the county. A mass vaccination program of schoolchildren with the Salk vaccine was performed to eliminate the chance of polio disease among the county's children.

Myrtie LeClaire, public health nurse, wrote an article called "Road to Normal Weight" for the local paper to fight obesity. Family planning services also started that year. In 1956, the Health Department staff participated in the Civil Defense Project during a hurricane. In 1958, the Clay County Health Council was formed to address the health needs of rural residents.



1960s

In 1962, The National League of Nursing deemed the Clay County Health Council's medical equipment loan closet for the needy as a national model. The Board of Health became the Division of Health under the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services (HRS) in 1969.

1970s

In the 1970's, the county began a trend of unprecedented population growth. By that time, the Health Department staff had increased to 30 employees with six full time and four part time Public Health Nurses. In 1973, Dr. Robert Gillespy Jr. became Health Officer. In 1976, the Clay County Crescent reported that the County Commissioners passed an ordinance requiring businessmen to pay fees for inspections by the Health Department that were formerly "absorbed" by the county.



In 1977, Edward Hayward Stansel became the first appointed Administrator of the Clay CHD, with Dr. John Malone serving as part-time Health Officer. During his tenure, Mr. Stansel worked to improve the health department facilities. The Visiting Nurses Association took over home nursing duties from the Health Department in 1979 and the department refocused on population-based health issues. In 1978, Ed Stansel reported 55-65% of Clay's school aged children were fully immunized against infectious diseases.

1980s

In 1981, the Green Cove Springs facility underwent a major renovation and expansion. This doubled the size of the Health Department. To meet the needs of the county, other clinic facilities were built or leased in various parts of the county. Since the 1980s, a series of unexpected new infectious diseases have emerged, over 30 new infectious agents have been detected, presenting tremendous challenges to human health. The ongoing epidemic of the human immune-deficiency virus (HIV) beginning in the 1980s is an example.

1990s

Nick Chapman became Administrator of the Health Department in 1991. Health department staff assisted in areas of Florida decimated by hurricane Andrew in 1992. Women of childbearing potential were advised to consume folate daily in order to reduce the risk of fetal malformations such as spina bifida and other neural tube defects. The Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services (HRS) separated into Department of Children and Families and the Department of Health in 1996.



2000s

On April 15, 2004, Nancy Mills became the current Administrator, 63 years to the day from the original initiation of the Clay CHD. In 2004, the department opened a special needs shelter for 3 hurricanes; and in 2005 sent staff to assist in areas affected by hurricanes Katrina and Wilma. In 2009, a major vaccination campaign occurred against H1N1. Over

19,506 residents were vaccinated with the bulk of the recipients being school aged children. The past decade saw declines in cases, hospitalizations, deaths, and health care costs associated with vaccine-preventable diseases. Among other things, tobacco use has declined, infectious diseases such as TB have been reduced, and public health preparedness and response have seen tremendous improvements. (CDC MMWR May 20, 2011.)

In the past 30 years, our immunization rate for school children has risen from 55% to over 90%. As the risks of death from infectious disease declined, control of chronic diseases has become more important. Public health has focused on the reduction of risks associated with chronic disease (poor nutrition, obesity, substance abuse, tobacco use, and exposure to cancer causing agents in the environment) to help residents live longer, more productive lives. Currently childhood obesity is a major concern. It is the cause for increased numbers of children with diabetes and cardiovascular problems.



2011

Clinic Services

Clinic Services are provided on a sliding fee scale basis, and immunizations are FREE through age 18, and then based on the cost of the vaccine for adults. Clinic fees are based on income and family size at the initial Social Service Assessment and updated at least annually. The majority of clients (62%) are uninsured. There are a multitude of clinical-based programs and ancillary services currently under operation through the Clay CHD funded by federal, state, county and grant generated revenues.

Text STD

The Clay CHD pioneered a Florida program to give patients quick results on their Chlamydia and Gonorrhea tests. The patient gives permission to

have coded text message sent to their cell phone. The text message is sent the same day laboratory results are received. Patients get their results quicker and get treated sooner.

Total Clinical Services	
2011	
Clients	15,234
Visits	40,986
Family Planning Services	
Client	1914
Visits	3266
HIV Services	
Clients	255
Visits	1997
Immunizations	
Clients	3154
Visits	3468

Grant Funded Clinic Expands Hours

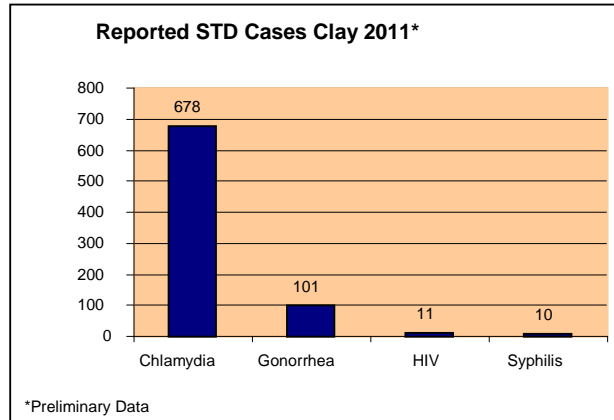
The LIP - Ed Stansel clinic located in Green Cove Springs expanded hours of operation from two to five days per week. The money for this grant was received from the Medicaid Low Income Pool system. As with any grant, the project will be evaluated on deliverables, which include decreasing avoidable emergency room admissions, coordinating care services, and improving patient adherence to self care measures.

Epidemiology

The Clay CHD has 5 surveillance activities in place which includes day cares, private schools, public schools, influenza sentinel physicians and ESSENCE (Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community-based Epidemics). These surveillance activities are monitored for exposure and illness activity and provide a useful tool in the identification of clusters/outbreaks of exposures and/or illness in our county.

We partner with Animal Care and Control regarding rabies prevention to assure that people who are bitten by animals, either wild or domestic, are educated regarding rabies prevention. We assist with the rabies post exposure vaccinations if needed.

The Epidemiology team partners with the Duval County Health Department HIV prevention staff and the National Guard Florida Youth Challenge Academy (FLYCA) to provide classes on healthy behaviors and disease prevention education.



Communicable diseases outbreak investigations included Staphylococcus aureus, Norovirus (Norwalk Virus), and diarrhea illness located in schools, daycares and adult living facilities. The county had four active cases of TB.

Clay County 2011 Diseases	Cases	Clay County 2011 Diseases	Cases
ANIMAL RABIES 07102	3	LEAD POISONING 94890	5
CAMPYLOBACTERIOSIS 03840	20	LEGIONELLOSIS 48280	1
CRYPTOSPORIDIOSIS 13680	6	PERTUSSIS 03390	5
DENGUE FEVER 06100	2	RABIES, POSSIBLE EXPOSURE 07101	29
ESCHERICHIA COLI, SHIGA TOXIN 00800	3	SALMONELLOSIS 00300	102
GIARDIASIS 00710	16	SHIGELLOSIS 00490	10
HAEMOPHILUS INFLUENZAE (INVASIVE 03841)	2	STREP PNEUMONIAE, INVASIVE DRG R 04823	7
HEPATITIS B (+HBsAg IN PREG Women 07039	3	STREP PNEUMONIAE, INVASIVE DISEASE, 04830	5
HEPATITIS B, ACUTE 07030	3	STREPTO. DISEASE INVASIVE A 03400	2
HEPATITIS B, CHRONIC 07032	30	VARICELLA 05290	16
HEPATITIS C, ACUTE 07051	0	VIBRIO PARAHAEMOLYTICUS 00540	1
HEPATITIS C, CHRONIC 07054	164	WEST NILE VIRUS, NEUROINVASIVE 06630	1
LEAD POISONING 94890	5	Total:	436

Community Health and Tobacco Prevention

The Clay CHD Tobacco Prevention Program serves as the administrative and managing partner for the Tobacco Free Clay community partnership. In 2011, the program supported community events and organizations to encourage events to be tobacco free. These included the Green Cove Springs Christmas parade, fun run and festival, the 3-day Memorial RiverFest Celebration, the Rotary Club annual Concert on the Green featuring the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra, and the national Freedom 8K benefiting the Wounded Warrior Project. Currently the program is partnering with HelloChange.org on their national Billions of Butts litter campaign to promote tobacco free parks and school grounds.

Community Health Programs encourage residents of all ages to be physically active. Our programs support school run/walk clubs, employee wellness and cutting edge data collection on physical activity. The Clay CHD holds the only free annual 5k road run and walk event attracting over 4,000 participants representing 43 schools. The Step Up 5k is an annual event held the first week of February.

School Health Services

School Health Services ensure that children are healthy and ready to learn. The presence of a school nurse can relieve teachers of monitoring and attending to student health needs thereby allowing them to devote their time to educating students. As part of a community outreach for 6th grade students who needed to receive a required Tetanus,

Diphtheria and Pertussis vaccination, the school health team partnered with the School District's junior high schools.

Free immunizations were provided to 417 students.



Other services included 10,890 vision, 10,841 hearing and 2,741 scoliosis screenings. As in the past, increasing childhood obesity rates is a worrisome trend. In order to educate and inform parents the school health teams perform body mass index screenings for 7,530 students in the 1st, 3rd and 6th grade. Our numbers indicate that 61% are at a healthy weight 5% underweight and 34% are either overweight (17%) or obese (17%).



Environmental Health

The Environmental Health Department is offering a new online resource available for the public to access and retrieve septic tank records. It allows the public to view, print, and save copies of documents related to septic tanks systems – including site plans, house plans, soil logs, and permits. This is part an ongoing project to scan all Clay Environmental records.

REGULATORY ACTIVITIES 2011

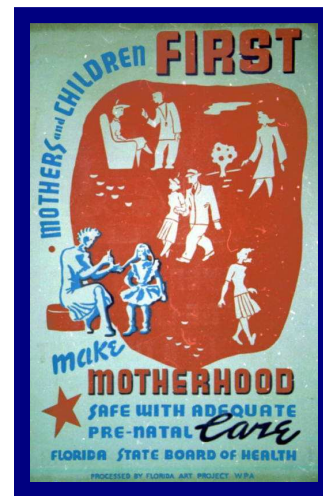
Permits Issued		Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal Systems	
Well	331	Repair	96
Group Care	172	New	87
Food Service	145	Existing	22
Pools	125	Abandoned	22
Biomedical Waste(permitted)	141	<i>Industrial Mfg. Zoned</i>	
Water System	75	Commercial	14
Tanning	22	Industrial	36
Mobile Home Parks	20	Performance Base	4
Body Piercing	7	Aerobic Treatment Units	10
TOTAL	1038	<i>Pump Trucks</i>	
		Septic	3
Other Services		Temporary Service	1
Storage Tank Facilities	330	Tank Manufacturer	1
Biomedical Waste Generators (exempt)	192	Maintenance Entities	2
Small Quantity Generators	263	TOTAL	297
Sanitary Nuisances	63		
TOTAL	848		

Healthy Start

The Healthy Start Program seeks to reduce infant mortality, reduce the number of low birth weight babies and improve health and developmental outcomes. Case Managers provide individualized care coordination to individuals who are determined to be at risk for a poor birth outcome. They provide community resource referrals, breastfeeding and childbirth education, parenting education and support; Safe Sleep classes, smoking cessation assistance, nutritional services and counseling. Spanish language prenatal classes and Daddy Boot Camp's are also offered. Healthy Start developed a multimedia blitz to communicate the message. "Healthy Start is spreading the news! Babies sleep safest on their backs in their own cribs!" The campaign encouraged parents to put infants on their back to sleep in order to reduce the risk of SIDS. The program served 1552 pregnant women and 1884 infants.

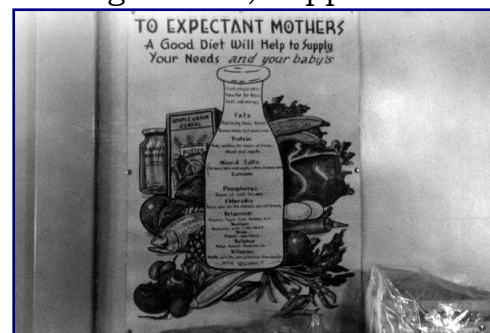
Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

WIC is a special supplemental nutrition program and currently serves 3,300 women, infants and children. The program recently added a prescreening tool at www.healthyclaycounty.com which allows clients to determine WIC eligibility prior to their visit. Over \$2.3 million WIC food vouchers were spent in our county last year.



Clay County WIC aims to improve health status of its clients by providing professional nutrition education. A major goal accomplished last year was to increase the percentage of secondary nutrition education contacts for high and low risk individuals to 90%.

WIC expanded its Breastfeeding Program by offering additional classes and services to nursing WIC women. Breastfeeding classes, support groups and after-hours breastfeeding support services are provided. A significant increase in babies ever breast fed was achieved from January 2011 to November 2011 (70.9% to 74.6%).



Preparedness

The Preparedness staff organized and directed a successful Special Needs Shelter Communications Exercise. Clay CHD employees practiced: pre-storm communication and activation procedures, shelter set-up procedures, operations, and demobilization at the Thrasher Horne Center, the county's designated special needs shelter.



Clay County Emergency Management officially opened the new Emergency Operations Center (EOC) which will allow all Emergency Support Functions (ESF) to work together and share information more effectively.

While preparing the Clay CHD Project Public Health Ready (PPHR) application, Preparedness staff reviewed and updated the Emergency Operations Plan and supporting Annexes.

Social Services

Clay CHD social workers performed a variety of activities and functions ranging from direct service to population-based public health planning and program administration. Our social workers conduct eligibility screening for our clinical services and provided 4,750 new screenings.

They provided assistance with Medicaid, family planning waivers, food stamps, Social Security Disability, vocational rehab, housing, food banks and clothes closets. They also provide information about other medical services within the county which include the Saturday Clinic, The Way Medical Clinic, Clay County Dental Clinic, Shands and Gainesville Dental School and the St. Vincent's Medical Van.

We Care

The CHD We Care volunteer physician program has 58 providers who agree to provide free services for eligible Clay County residents. Their efforts provided an estimated value in excess of \$175,000 in uncompensated care to Clay CHD clients. In addition, over \$208,000 of services were donated by partners working with the program to address medical needs of our financially challenged medical population. The CHD

We Care volunteer program also serves as a liaison with other volunteer providers and clinics within our county who provide notable services to the uninsured clients in Clay County.

Vital Records

The Clay CHD serves as the county's vital records office for Florida birth and Clay County death certificates.

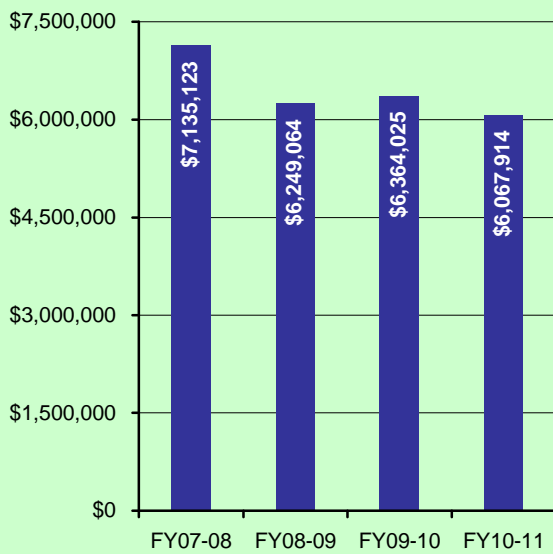
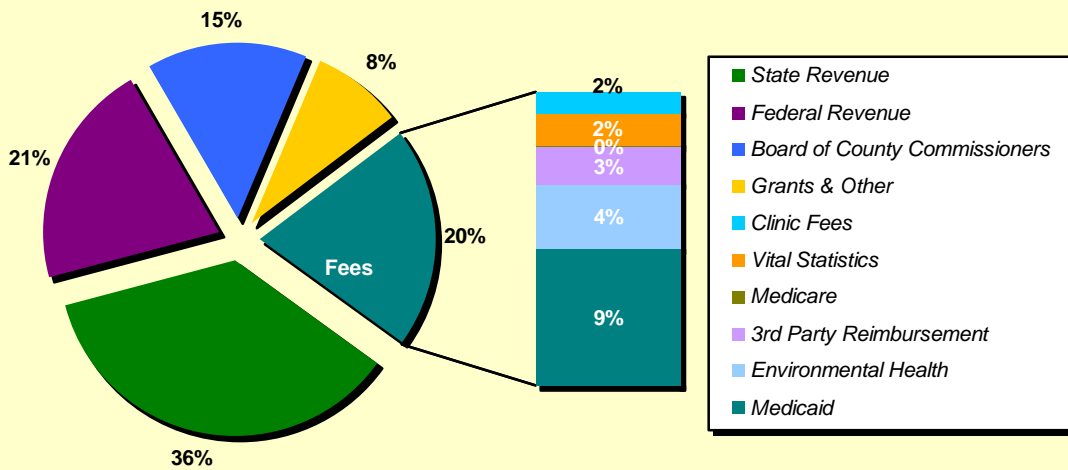
2011 Vital Statistics	
Births	2,191
Birth Certificates Issued	4,477
Birth Revenue	\$59,069.00
Deaths	~1300
Death Certificates Issued	10,353
Death Revenue	\$103,530.00
Total Revenue	\$162,599.00



Administrative

We are proud of our customer satisfaction rate which meets or exceeds expectations 98% of the time and our 100% response within one business day to complaints. Our human resources staff reviewed 645 applications and hired and oriented 16 staff members. Our IT department answered 1,929 help desk tickets. The Clay CHD is gearing up to seek national accreditation in 2014. An agency-wide effort is underway to review processes and outcomes and to institute quality improvement efforts at all levels of the organization. All 104 members of our staff will play a role in this effort in meeting standards and continuously enhancing the quality of services offered. This process is a means of demonstrating accountability to the community.

FY 2010-2011 • FINANCIAL RESOURCES



Fee Revenue budgeted for FY10-11

Total Resources

Resources by Category



Main Office
1305 Idlewild Ave.
PO Box 578
Green Cove Springs, FL 32043
904-529-2800 Fax – 529-2802

Epidemiology/Communicable Disease 24/7 Reporting – 529-2800

Environmental Health – 529-2801

Healthy Start &
Women, Infants and Children (WIC) – 276-2610
2141 Loch Rane Blvd., #107 Orange Park

Medical Clinic – 272-3177
3229 Bear Run Blvd., Orange Park

Vital Statistics – 529-2845